

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

2014 Climate Action Plan Update – Recommendations (DRAFT II)



SUMMARY

The Climate Change Working Group – comprised of residents, business, education, non-profit, and utility representatives – has been evaluating new opportunities to help reach the Chula Vista Climate Action Plan's greenhouse gas reduction goal of 30% below 2005 levels. As such, the CCWG has identified 12 action areas that could generate up to 166,000 metric tons in reductions by 2020, while improving local air quality, generating utility savings, reducing traffic congestion, and promoting a healthier community:

| WATER CONSERVATION & REUSE | | Estimated Annual GHG Reductions: 6,000 MT CO ₂ e |
|---|--|---|
| #1 Water Education & Enforcement Expand education and enforcement (through fines) targeting landscape water waste. | | |
| #2 Water Efficiency Upgrades A) Use sewer ratepayer funds to incentivize indoor water conservation and provide on-bill financing opportunities. B) Update the City's Landscape Water Conservation Ordinance to promote more water-wise landscaping designs. C) Require water-savings retrofits in existing buildings at a specific point in time (not point of sale). | | |
| #3 Water Reuse Plan & System Installations A) Develop a Water Reuse Master Plan to maximize the use of storm water, recycled water (such as indoor commercial use), and onsite water reclamation. B) Promote graywater through a Laundry-to-Landscape installation program and by simplifying complex systems' permit review. | | |
| WASTE REDUCTION | | Estimated Annual GHG Reductions: 32,000 MT CO ₂ e |
| #4 Zero Waste Plan Develop a Zero Waste Plan (with special emphasis on zero waste events, business certifications, and building deconstruction) to supplement statewide green waste, recycling, and plastic bag ban efforts. | | |
| RENEWABLE & EFFICIENT ENERGY | | Estimated Annual GHG Reductions: 79,000 MT CO ₂ e |
| #5 Energy Education & Enforcement A) Expand education targeting key community segments (ex. DIY & Millennials) and facilitating energy performance disclosure (ex. Green Leases & Home Energy Ratings). B) Leverage the building inspection process to distribute energy-related information and to deter unpermitted, low performing energy improvements. | | |

RENEWABLE & EFFICIENT ENERGY (continued)

#6 Clean Energy Sources

- A) Incorporate solar photovoltaic into all new residential and commercial buildings (individual or shared systems).
- B) Provide more grid-delivered clean energy (up to 100%) through Community Choice Aggregation or other mechanism.

#7 Energy Efficiency Upgrades

- A) Expand the City's "cool roof" standards to include re-roofs and western areas.
- B) Streamline the permit process for energy-saving improvements by offering bundled and over-the-counter options.
- C) Facilitate more energy upgrades in the community through tax breaks, rebates, and more local energy efficiency programming.
- D) Require energy-savings retrofits in existing buildings at a specific point in time (not at point of sale).

#8 Robust Urban Forests

Plant more shade trees to save energy, address heat island issues, and improve air quality.

SMART GROWTH & TRANSPORTATION

Estimated Annual GHG Reductions:
49,000 MT CO₂e

#9 Complete Streets & Neighborhoods

- A) Incorporate "Complete Streets" principles into the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans and Capital Improvement Program.
- B) Encourage higher density and mixed-use development in Smart Growth areas, especially around trolley stations and other transit nodes.
- C) Synchronize traffic signals to help ensure efficient traffic flow.

#10 Flexible Parking Requirements

Allow flexibility in meeting parking requirements by incorporating bike facilities, transit access/passes, and other Transportation Demand Management offerings.

#11 Alternative Fuel Vehicle Readiness

- A) Support the installation of more local alternative fueling stations and designate preferred parking for alternative fuel vehicles.
- B) Design all new residential and commercial buildings to be "Electric Vehicle Ready."

#12 Multi-Modal Options

- A) Amend the Growth Management Ordinance to include considerations for alternative transportation options and to de-emphasize vehicular level of service.
- B) Expand bike-sharing, car-sharing, and other "last mile" transportation options, especially in eastern areas.

BACKGROUND

In January 2014, the City Council tasked the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) with identifying new opportunities - through a consensus-building process - to reduce Chula Vista's carbon footprint as part of the broader Climate Action Plan update effort. The City has had a Climate Action Plan since 2000, which was subsequently updated in 2008 and 2010. The Climate Action Plan acts as a roadmap for various policies and programs aiming to ultimately reduce our community's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 30% below 2005 levels (recalibrated from 1990 goal). This goal, after accounting for state and federal activities, equates to reducing local emissions by approximately 185,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide.

PUBLIC PLANNING PROCESS

The CCWG was established as a subcommittee of the City's Resource Conservation Commission and included a diverse membership of residents, business, education, non-profit, and utility representatives:

| Climate Change Working Group Members (& Alternates) | | |
|---|---|---|
| Residents <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sassan Rahimzadeh - CCWG Chair- Bob Coleman - CCWG Vice Chair- Ellen Kappes | Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Allison Wood - SANDAG (Anna Lowe)- Lindsey Hawes - Center for Sustainable Energy | |
| Community Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lisa Davis - High Tech High- Debbie Discar-Espe - CV Charitable Foundation | Waste Management <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Carlos Jaime - Republic Services- Pauline Martinson - I Love a Clean SD (Samantha Russo) | |
| New Development <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sean Kilkenny - Otay Ranch Company (Nick Lee)- Rich D'Ascoli - Pacific SW Assoc. of Realtors (Tracy Morgan Hollingsworth) | Utilities <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Josh Brock - SDG&E (Dinah Willier)- Sue Mosburg - Sweetwater Authority (Doug Roberts) | |
| Existing Buildings & Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hugo Mora - Mocard Group- Todd Galarneau - CV Chamber of Commerce (Steve Miesen) | Staff <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Brendan Reed- Robert Beamon- Cory Downs | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lynn France- Janice Kluth- Brenden Seki |

Over the past 9 months, the CCWG held 10 public meetings to further explore Climate Change-related topics, hear from various experts, and tour local facilities and community assets. Through this process, the Climate Change Working Group evaluated over 170 different options for new policies and programs that the City could adopt to help reach its goal. Some of the criteria that we used to help guide our evaluations were (1) focusing on actions that were in the City's control, (2) limiting actions' negative fiscal impacts to the City, and (3) prioritizing actions that could be fully implemented within the next 5 years. Based on our discussions and careful deliberations, we are recommending 12 different action areas that we believe could contribute up to 166,000 metric tons of local greenhouse gas emission reductions towards the City's goal by 2020. It should be noted that these actions are mainly focused on the community, since the City has already adopted an ambitious "City Operations Sustainability Plan" to address emissions from municipal buildings and fleet. Finally, the CCWG's proposed

recommendations were presented to community members at a public forum on October 14th at the Civic Library to solicit additional input before finalization.

CONCLUSIONS

Climate change is real and immediate and could negatively impact Chula Vista's high quality of life. By responding to climate change proactively, we hope to lower its associated risks and costs, while helping to improve local air quality, lower utility costs, reduce traffic congestion, and design healthier, more connected neighborhoods. Our recommendations are high level and, if supported by City Council, should be further developed by City staff. Specifically, implementation steps, cost estimates, timelines, & refined GHG reduction estimates for the various actions should be outlined for future consideration by City Council. Lastly, the Climate Change Working Group would like to acknowledge the generous financial and technical support provided by San Diego Gas & Electric, the San Diego Foundation, and the University of San Diego's Energy Policy Initiatives Center throughout the planning process. Without them, the Climate Change Working Group would not have been able to work as effectively or efficiently.



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

CCWG CLIMATE ACTION PUBLIC FORUM

Below is a summary of feedback from community members at the Climate Change Working Group's (CCWG) *Climate Action Public Forum* on October 14, 2014 at the Civic Center Library Auditorium:

WATER CONSERVATION & REUSE

PRESENTATION Q&A SESSION

- The City should create an initiative to promote water harvesting & rain barrels should be given to every home

DOT EXERCISE RESPONSES (# of dots)

- Update Landscape Water Conservation Ordinance (7)
- Expand education & enforcement to address landscape water waste (6)
- Develop a Water Reuse Master Plan (5)
- Facilitate graywater systems thru incentives & permitting (3)
- General Water Reuse Plan & system installations (3)
- Require water-saving retrofits in existing buildings (2)

COMMENT CARD RESPONSES

1) For water, what draft recommendations do you support? Why?

- All 3 if they work because everybody comes out ahead
- Reuse graywater
- Update Landscape Water Conservation Ordinance & develop a Water Reuse Master Plan (include community gardens)
- Graywater reclamation because it is a valuable resource that is going to waste
- Watering lawns is a huge waste
- Develop a Water Reuse Master Plan
- Seawater to drinking water (TJ River Valley has the necessary elements already - water pipes, reclamation plant, & aquifer)
- Graywater system incentives because it is easy to adapt & retrofit existing installations

2) Do you have suggested revisions to any of the water-related draft recommendations?

- Put a bucket in the shower while you wait for hot water and then reuse it (spread the idea)
- Rainwater harvesting & storm water infiltration
- Community gardens as potential off-site mitigation measure (include bio-swales in part of garden)
- Include rainwater collection receptacles (tax break & rebates for businesses)
- Sorry, do not know the draft facts
- Mandatory enforcement of water use reduction
- A high fine for water waste

WASTE REDUCTION

PRESENTATION Q&A SESSION

- City should use inspirational photographs (ex. trees & water-wise landscapes) in outreach efforts

DOT EXERCISE RESPONSES (# of dots)

- Support statewide green waste, recycling, & plastic bag ban efforts (10)
- Zero Waste certifications for businesses (5)
- Zero Waste events (1)
- Building deconstruction & materials reuse (1)

COMMENT CARD RESPONSES

1) For waste, what draft recommendations do you support? Why?

- Support recycling efforts
- Green waste & recycling
- Support statewide green waste & recycling because plastic waste is very polluting
- Zero Waste programs such as “Food to Soil” composting model
- Recycling for different classes of waste
- Support statewide green waste, recycling, & plastic bag efforts

2) Do you have suggested revisions to any of the waste-related draft recommendations?

- More consumer education
- Make a recycling ordinance
- Finance incentives for participating in Zero Waste programs, with follow-up/evaluation to ensure that protocols are being followed
- Sorry, do not know the draft, but interested to help
- Community composting at community gardens with (1) food scraps delivery by community members who become garden members in compost program and (2) compost education classes
- Make fast food businesses responsible for the waste their customers leave

RENEWABLE & EFFICIENT ENERGY

PRESENTATION Q&A SESSION

- More info online about using trees to make homes more comfortable & to save energy
- City should also promote succulents for people who cannot fit trees on their yards
- There needs to be a balance between the recommendations & their costs/economy

DOT EXERCISE RESPONSES (# of dots)

- Incorporate solar PV into all new buildings (6)
- Plant more shade trees to save energy & improve air quality (6)
- Provide up to 100% “clean” energy through Community Choice Aggregation (5)
- Streamline permitting process for upgrades (3)
- Leverage inspection process to educate & deter low-performing energy upgrades (3)
- Expand education for key sectors & building disclosures (2)
- Expand “cool roof” standards (2)
- Require energy-saving retrofits in existing buildings (2)
- General energy education & enforcement (2)
- General clean energy sources (2)
- General energy efficiency upgrades (2)

COMMENT CARD RESPONSES

1) For energy, what draft recommendations do you support? Why?

- Robust urban forest & consider fruit trees to increase local food security & offset carbon emissions
- Would support building as many solar & wind projects as possible
- For recommendation 5(b), it is important to do upgrades correctly
- For recommendation 6(a), education & advertisement of increased rebates (recommendation 7(c)) through events
- For recommendation 8, regionally appropriate trees
- Solar panels
- Solar panels in all new construction
- Solar PV on all buildings & Community Choice Aggregation because it will fight climate change aggressively & decentralize our power system

2) Do you have suggested revisions to any of the energy-related draft recommendations?

- Make people conscientious to turn off & disconnect everything that they are not using
- Set explicit goal of 100% renewables like San Diego's draft CAP
- Mandatory low-energy upgrades in all new construction

SMART GROWTH & TRANSPORTATION

PRESENTATION Q&A SESSION

- The world will be transitioning away from vehicles because oil will be prohibitively expensive
- The recommendation to streamline permits for energy efficiency projects should also be applied to projects incorporating "smart growth" principles
- City leaders should continue to strongly support higher density (despite some resident pushback)
- Community needs more rapid transit busses for people with longer commutes

DOT EXERCISE RESPONSES (# of dots)

- Synchronize traffic signals to improve flow (3)
- Allow flexible parking requirements for projects with alternative transportation (3)
- Incorporate "Complete Streets" principles into plans & capital projects (2)
- Amend Growth Management Ordinance to include alternative transportation considerations (2)
- Design new buildings to be "EV-Ready" (1)
- Encourage higher density, mixed-use in Smart Growth areas (1)

COMMENT CARD RESPONSES

1) For transportation, what draft recommendations do you support? Why?

- Building plug-ins, improving public transportation, & encouraging bicycling & rideshare
- Incorporate "Complete Streets" & flexible parking because there is a lot of car & gas pollution
- For recommendation 9(c), it is practical & easy
- For recommendation 10, incentives are good & rideshare organizing
- Synchronize traffic signals

2) Do you have suggested revisions to any of the transportation-related draft recommendations?

- [No responses]